

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed July 13, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending in this application of which Claims 11-20 have been allowed. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. New claim 21 has been added. Claim 6 has been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the presently rejected claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent Application No.2002/0119693) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Claim 6 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 6. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Chen.

Claims 3-5 and 7-10 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 3-5 and 7-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-5 and 7-10 likewise are patentable over Chen.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2,4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Endo (U.S. Patent No. 6,514,099) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Claim 6 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 6. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Chen in view of Endo.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claim 2 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claim 2 likewise is patentable over Chen in view of Endo.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

The objection to claim 6 as depending from rejected base claims is respectfully traversed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 6.

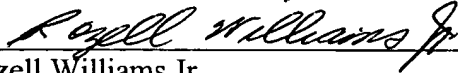
Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 6 and is now submitted to be patentable. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 6 be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited art describes or suggests an electrical connector that includes a housing having a mating face that is configured to be mounted onto an electrical connector interface, the housing including opposed channels at lower side edges proximate the mating face and an open bottom therebetween, and wherein a latch assembly is provided on a side wall of the housing, the latch assembly being oriented to extend along the side wall, and wherein the latch assembly has a latch element formed on an end thereof proximate the mating face, and the latch assembly includes a pivot post at an intermediate point along a length of the latch assembly that pivotally joins the latch assembly to the side wall. Specifically, none of the cited art describes or suggests a housing that includes opposed channels at lower side edges proximate the mating face and an open bottom therebetween. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 21 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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